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FOR AMBASSADORS AND CHARGES FROM TODMAN

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TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: ARA WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

SUMMARY: THE PRESIDENT'S OAS SPEECH PROVIDES POLICY GUIDE-
LINES WITHIN WHICH WE CAN DO MUCH TO BETTER HEMISPHERIC
RELATIONS. ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION CONTINUES TO OCCUPY PUBLIC
AND GOVERNMENTAL ATTENTION. AL FISHLOW HAS MADE A NUMBER
OF PROPOSALS TO IMPROVE US-LATIN AMERICAN ECONOMIC RELATIONS.
A HIGH-LEVEL CONFERENCE ON THE CARIBBEAN IS PLANNED FOR
JUNE IN FLORIDA. SENATOR MCGOVERN, UPON HIS RETURN FROM
CUBA, FAVORS A PARTIAL LIFTING OF THE TRADE EMBARGO. HENRY
GEYELIN BRIEFED US ON THE COUNCIL OF THE AMERICAS. CHARLIE
BRAY LEAVES ARA THIS WEEK AND WILL BE REPLACED TEMPORARILY
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BY FRANK DEVINE; DICK BARNEBEY WILL BE FILLING IN FOR FRANK.
END SUMMARY.

1. PRESIDENT'S OAS SPEECH: MUCH OF THE LATIN AMERICAN
REACTION TO THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH CONCERNED NEW POLICY
DIRECTIONS, WHILE THE US PRESS EMPHASIZED THE PORTIONS
DEALING WITH HUMAN RIGHTS. WE SENSE MODEST SATISFACTION

OVER THE PRESIDENT'S POLICY STATEMENT BUT THE ATTITUDE APPEARS TO BE ONE OF WAIT AND SEE.

THE SPEECH PROVIDES POLICY GUIDELINES WITHIN WHICH WE CAN

DO MUCH TO BETTER HEMISPHERIC RELATIONS. THE KEY TO OUR POLICY LIES IN THE ACTIONS WE CAN TAKE TO IMPLEMENT THE POLICY SET FORTH. WE ARE PREPARING FOLLOW UP ON SPECIFIC ACTIONS WE CAN TAKE; AS STATED PREVIOUSLY, WE SOLICIT AND WELCOME YOUR IDEAS.

2. DOMESTIC FORUM: BILL LUERS TRAVELED TO THE SOUTHWEST LAST WEEK FOR APPEARANCES AT HOUSTON AND TUCSON. AT HOUSTON BILL ADDRESSED THE GULF COAST WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL AND HAD SEVERAL MEDIA INTERVIEWS THERE. HE JOINED SECRETARY OF LABOR MARSHALL AND OTHERS IN HOUSTON, WHERE BILL DELIVERED THE KEYNOTE SPEECH AT A CONFERENCE ON ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION SPONSORED BY THE CHICANO TRAINING

CENTER. IN TUCSON HE PARTICIPATED IN A SYMPOSIUM ON ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION SPONSORED BY THE POPULATION INSTITUTE. (THE ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION PROBLEM HAS BEEN UNDER INTENSE INTER-AGENCY REVIEW; AN OPTIONS PAPER IS DUE AT THE WHITE HOUSE ON APRIL 29. WE PLAN CONSULTATIONS WITH MEXICO AND OTHER KEY COUNTRIES BEFORE ANY DECISIONS ARE ANNOUNCED.)

3. SEMINAR ON US ECONOMIC POLICY FOR LATIN AMERICA: ON APRIL 18, AL FISHLOW (FORMER ARA DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS AND CURRENTLY PROFESSOR OF ECONOMICS

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AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA-BERKELEY) PRESENTED HIS VIEWS AT THE DEPARTMENT ON A "MATURE NEIGHBOR POLICY". THESE VIEWS WERE DEVELOPED AS PART OF A CONTRACT STUDY ON LATIN AMERICA AND THE NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER. THE MAJOR FEATURE OF AL'S PROPOSALS WAS A CALL FOR GREATER TRADE LIBERALIZATION. HE SUGGESTED THAT IF THIS WAS DONE AS A GLOBAL POLICY, THE MAJOR BENEFICIARIES WOULD BE THE COUNTRIES OF LATIN AMERICA. AMONG SUGGESTIONS MADE WERE: ENCOURAGE PRIVATE US BANKS TO BUY IFI BONDS INSTEAD OF MAKING DIRECT LOANS TO LATIN AMERICAN GOVERNMENTS; TAKE A NEUTRAL POSITION REGARDING US PRIVATE INVESTMENT IN LATIN AMERICA; AND WORK FOR A FULL BOOK VALUE STANDARD (WITH ACCOUNT TAKEN FOR INFLATION) IN COMPENSATION FOR NATIONALIZATION OF FOREIGN INVESTMENTS.

4. CARIBBEAN CONFERENCE PLANNED: ARA, IN CONJUNCTION WITH A NUMBER OF CO-SPONSORING ORGANIZATIONS IN THE STATE OF FLORIDA, IS PLANNING A CONFERENCE ON CARIBBEAN TRADE AND ECONOMIC ISSUES AT TAMPA JUNE 23-24. PRIME MINISTER MANLEY

SENATOR CHILES, AND LT.GOV. DYMALLY OF CALIFORNIA HAVE BEEN INVITED, AND I ALSO PLAN TO TAKE PART. WE EXPECT THAT MORE THAN 300 PARTICIPANTS FROM BUSINESS AND ACADEMIA FROM AROUND THE COUNTRY WILL PARTICIPATE.

5. MCGOVERN'S TRIP TO CUBA: UPON HIS RETURN FROM CUBA SENATOR MCGOVERN TOLD ME THAT IT IS CASTRO'S VIEW THAT WE MUST LIFT THE EMBARGO, AT LEAST PARTIALLY, IN ORDER TO GET CUBA TO REINSTATE THE HIJACKING AGREEMENT. MCGOVERN SAID HE WOULD TRY TO GET CONGRESS TO MANDATE AN END TO THE EMBARGO ON FOODS AND MEDICINES. HOWEVER, CUBA WOULD WANT TO EXPORT SUGAR TO THE US TO PAY FOR FOODS AND MEDICINES -- WHICH WOULD BE AN ADDITIONAL COMPLICATING FACTOR IN OUR NEW SUGAR IMPORT LEGISLATION.

6. BRIEFING ON COUNCIL OF THE AMERICAS: HENRY GEYELIN, PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL OF THE AMERICAS, WAS OUR SPEAKER
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AT THE APRIL 13 ARA STAFF MEETING. HE SKETCHED THE GROWTH OF THE COUNCIL FROM ITS FOUNDING IN THE EARLY 1960S AND DESCRIBED SOME OF THE COUNCIL'S ACTIVITIES. HE OUTLINED HOW THE COUNCIL FACILITATES CONTACTS BETWEEN LATIN AMERICAN GOVERNMENTS AND US BUSINESSMEN IN ATTEMPTS TO DO AWAY WITH MISCONCEPTIONS ON BOTH SIDES. WE ENGAGED GEYELIN IN AN EXTENDED DISCUSSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS; HE AGREED THAT THERE IS A PLACE FOR QUIET, PRIVATE PRO-HUMAN RIGHTS PRESSURE BY AMERICAN FIRMS IN SOME COUNTRIES.

7. ARA PERSONNEL CHANGES: AS MOST OF YOU KNOW, CHARLIE BRAY HAS BEEN NOMINATED TO BE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF USIA. THIS WILL BE HIS LAST WEEK IN ARA. WE WILL MISS CHARLIE AND THE FINE WORK HE HAS DONE IN ARA, BUT LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH HIM AT USIA. FRANK DEVINE WILL BE FILLING IN FOR CHARLIE UNTIL A REPLACEMENT IS ON BOARD, AND DICK BARNEBEY WILL TEMPORARILY ASSUME FRANK'S DUTIES AS ACTING DIRECTOR OF ANDEAN AFFAIRS.

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